

HOUSE RESOLUTION 420
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joe W. Guthrie upon receiving the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as professional and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joe Guthrie, who was recently chosen the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year; and

WHEREAS, an estimable member of his community, Mr. Guthrie serves as the Executive Director of the Chattanooga Regional Council of Governments/Southeast Tennessee Development District and has made significant contributions to the Chattanooga region in this capacity for almost three decades; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Guthrie's inspirational leadership, the Development District has grown from a struggling agency with eleven employees and an operating fund balance of forty-seven dollars to a renowned government service agency with eighty-two employees, an operating balance of more than three million dollars, and assets that include lucrative real estate holdings and an outstanding loan portfolio that total more than twenty-eight million dollars in value; within eighteen months of Mr. Guthrie's appointment as Executive Director, the operating fund balance of the Development District had been restored to solvency and totaled two hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the agency has worked with a number of nascent community organizations, helping them to become dynamic community contributors, and has won numerous accolades for the outstanding quality of its work and the dedication of its staff; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie's work has clearly not only transformed the Southeast Tennessee Development District, but also the entire Chattanooga region; "Joe Guthrie has made major contributions in fields as diverse as senior services, public health, roads and infrastructure, workforce development, neighborhood revitalization, and small business loans," according to Valerie Gifford, the Chair of the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie's remarkable public service is not limited only to his work with the Development District, as he still finds time to lend his talents to such notable organizations as the Tennessee Valley Industrial Development Association as a Director; the Tennessee Business and Industrial Development Corporation as Vice President and Director; the Development District Association of Appalachia, serving on the Board of Directors, as Vice President, and as the incoming President; the Appalachian Fund for Growth; the Chattanooga Rotary Club; the Tennessee Development District Association; American Institute of Certified Planners; and the Christian Network Team; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Guthrie is a member of the Red Bank United Methodist Church, where he teaches a Sunday School class and has chaired and served on numerous committees; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dayton, Tennessee, Mr. Guthrie is the son of Thomas and Dorothy Shaver Guthrie; and

WHEREAS, knowing the intrinsic value of higher education, Mr. Guthrie obtained his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Political Science from Middle Tennessee State University and his Master's degree in Planning from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Guthrie is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Glenda; the couple has three children and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Joe Guthrie for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Joe W. Guthrie for his laudable service to the citizens of this State, congratulate him upon receiving the Chattanooga Area Manager of the Year Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.